



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
www.bpu.state.nj.us

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF MIDDLESEX WATER)	ORDER SUSPENDING INCREASES,
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN)	CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS IN
INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER)	RATES FOR SERVICE
SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES)	
)	BPU DOCKET NO. WR07040275

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD¹:

On April 18, 2006, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, and N.J.A.C. 14:9-7.1 et seq., Middlesex Water Company, (Middlesex or Company); a public utility of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities (Board), filed a petition seeking to increase and revise its rates and charges for water service amounting to approximately \$8.9 million or 16.46%. The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on June 1, 2007. The Company states that it will implement the proposed rates on January 15, 2008, on an interim basis, pursuant to law, if the Board has suspended the effective date of the new rates pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, but has not finally determined a new just and reasonable tariff prior to that date. (Petition at 7).

Middlesex states that the reasons for the requested increase are as follows: "to enable the Company to maintain a satisfactory credit position; to preserve its financial integrity, to permit proper maintenance, development and improvements of the utility plant required to furnish safe, adequate, and proper service; to encourage continued good management, to prevent confiscation or diminution of the Company's property; and to earn a reasonable return upon the fair value of the Company's property used and useful in the public service." (Petition at 6).

Middlesex services approximately 59,000 retail water customers in the Townships of Edison and Woodbridge, the Boroughs of South Plainfield, Metuchen and Carteret and the City of South Amboy in Middlesex County, the Township of Clark in Union County, and the Township of Downe in Cumberland County. On a contract basis, the Company serves part of the Township of Edison, the Boroughs of Highland Park and Sayreville, the Old Bridge Municipal Utilities

¹ Commissioner Frederick F. Butler did not participate in the deliberation or vote on this matter.

Authority, the Marlboro Township Municipal Utilities Authority and the City of Rahway. It is also under a special contract the Township of East Brunswick.

It appearing that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in the Company's tariff, it is HEREBY ORDERED that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until October 1, 2007, unless the Board prior to that date makes a determination disposing of the petition;
- (2) Petitioner shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition by the Office of Administrative Law, file with this Board and with the Office of Administrative Law (33 Washington Street, Newark, N.J. 07102) proof of compliance with the Notice provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12 (b) and (c), which Notice shall include a statement that any relief found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers on any rate or schedule as the Board may determine; and
- (3) Petitioner shall, at the same time it files with this Board, also file proof of service of copies of this Order upon the Office of Administrative Law, the Division of Rate Counsel (31 Clinton Street, P.O. Box 46005, Newark, NJ 07102), the clerks of each affected municipality, the clerks to the Boards of Chose Freeholders of each affected county, and where appropriate, the executive officer of each affected county within its service area. Service of the petition, notice of hearings and this Suspension Order may be made simultaneously.

DATED:


5/24/07

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


JEANNE M. FOX
PRESIDENT


CONNIE O. HUGHES
COMMISSIONER


JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER


CHRISTINE V. BATOR
COMMISSIONER

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public
Utilities

ATTEST:


KRISTI IZZO
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES
FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF CHANGES

BPU DOCKET NO. WR07040275

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